Mary R. Bird

Book of receipts, mostly domestic

[c. 1825]

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To cure smoky Chimnies

Put on the top of the Chimney a Box, in each of whose sides is a door hanging on hinges, & kept open by a thin Iron rod running from one to the other & fastened by a Ring in each end to a Staple. When there is no wind these doors are at rest, & each forms an angle of 45°, which is decreased on the windward side in proportion to the force of the wind, & increased in the same ratio on the Leeward side. If the wind be very strong, the door opposed to the wind becomes close, while the opposite one is opened as wide as it can be. If the wind strikes the corner of the box, it shuts two doors & opens their opposites. This scheme has been tried with success in a Chimney which always filled the room

with smoke, but which since adopted, has never smoked the Room at all. The expense is trifling, & the apparatus simple.

To make Lady Dudleys Soap

Two ounces of bitter Almonds blanched, one ounce & a quarter of Tincture of Benjamin, 1 pound of good plain white Soap & one piece of Camphor the size of a ~~Butternut~~ Walnut. The Almonds & Camphor are to be beaten in a Mortar till they are completely mixed, then work them up with Tincture of Benjamin. The Mixture being perfectly made, work the Soap into it in the same manner. if the smell is too powerful of the Camphor & Tincture of Benjamin, melt the Soap by the fire, & the perfume

will go off. This Soap has been tried by many persons of distinction, is excellent in its qualities for cleansing the Skin & will be found greatly to assist the complexion, the ingredients being perfectly safe, & free from those pernicious properties that are usually incorporated with other Soaps.

To preserve the natural colour in the Petals of dried flowers Nothing more is necessary than to immerse the petals for some minutes in alcohol. The colours will fade at first, but in a short time will resume their natural tint & remain permanently fixed.

Improved method of taking off impressions of leaves, Plants &c Take half a sheet of fine wove paper, oil it well with sweet oil, after it has stood a minute or two, to let it soak thro', rub off the superfluous oil with a piece of paper & let it hang in the air to dry;

after the oil is pretty well dried in, take a lighted candle or lamp and move the paper slowly over it, in an horizontal direction, so as to touch the flame till it is perfectly black. When you wish to take off impressions of plants, lay your plant carefully on the oiled paper, & lay a piece of clean paper over it & rub it with your finger, especially in all parts, for about a half a minute; then take up your plant, & be careful not to disturb the order of the leaves, & place it on the back of paper, on which you wish to have the impression, then cover it with a piece of blotting-paper & rub it with your finger for a short time, & you will have an impression, equal to the finest engraving. The same piece of black paper will serve to take off a great number of impressions; so that when you have once gone thro' the process of blacking it, you may make an impression in a very short time. The principal excellence

of this method is, that the proper
receives the impression of the
most minute veins & lines, so
that you may take the general
character of most flowers much
superior to any engraving. The
impressions may afterwards be
coloured according to nature.

Method of bleaching straw.

Dip the straw in a solution
of oxygenated muriatic acid
saturated with potash / oxygenated
muriate of lime is much cheaper /
The straw is rendered very white,
& its flexibility is increased.

For taking grease out of the leaves
of Books.

Fold up in two small bags made
of fine open muslin, some white
of burnt bones, finely powdered,
or of calcined hartshorn, which
is always ready prepared at
the shops of the druggists; lay the
bags of muslin containing the
powder one on each side of the
greasy leaf; & having heated a pair
of fire tongs, or hair crispers pressing with
tongs, of a moderate warmth, press

them the two bags against the greasy spot & hold them some time in that situation, repeat the process if necessary.
When the Iron cannot be conveniently used, the powder may be heated over the fire in a clean Earthen vessel; & when hot, applied without any Muslins, on each side the greasy spot, & a weight laid on it to encrease its effect.

To dye or stain Leather Gloves, to resemble York Tan Liquid &c.
These different-pleasing hues of Yellow, brown or tan colour are readily imparted to Leather gloves by the following simple process: Steep saffron in boiling hot soft water for about twelve hours; then having slightly sewed up the tops of the Gloves, to prevent the dye from staining the insides, wet them over with

sponge or soft brush, dipped into the liquid. The quantity of saffron as well as the water, wine or vinegar depends on what quantity may be wanting, & their relative proportion, or the depth of colour required. A common tea cup will contain sufficient quantity for a single pair of Gloves.

To prevent sea sickness

Drop a few drops of vitriolic Aether on a lump of loaf Sugar & let it dissolve in your mouth: or; drink a few drops of Aether added to a solution of Sugar in water, to prevent its Evaporation

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To make Lips glue for joining paper silk & thin Leather

Take Isinglass & parchment glue of each one ounce; sugar candy & Gum-tragacanth, each two drams. add to them an ounce of Water & boil the whole together till the mixture when cold, has the consistence of glue; then form the same into small balls, or any other figure that

may be most convenient & fit for use.
This Glue may be wetted with the tongue, & rubbed on the edges of the paper, silk, or leather, that are to be joined, & on being laid together & suffered to dry, they will be united as firmly as any other part of the substance.

Thick Cement.

This elegant cement is made by mixing flour of Thick intimately with cold water & then gently boiling it. It is beautifully white & dries almost transparent. Paper pasted together by means of this cement, will sooner rupture in their own substance than at the joining, which makes it extremely useful in the preparation of various paper articles, as toy boys Ladies reeping Boxes & other articles which require

Sample of paper to be examined together. It is, in every respect preferable to common paste made with wheat flour, for almost every purpose for which that article is usually applied. It answers well, in particular, for pasting into Books the copies of writings taken off by copying machines on unsized paper. With this composition made with a small quantity of water that it may have a consistence similar to plaster clay, Models, Busts, Statues, Bas-reliefs, & the like may be formed & when dry the articles made of it are susceptable of a high polish; they are also very durable.

Remedy for deafness

Put a table spoonful of Bay salt into a pint of lukewarm water, & after it has stood two

24 hours, (now & then shaking the Phial) cause a small teaspoon-ful of the same to be poured into the ear most affected, every night when in bed, for seven or eight nights successively, observing to lay your head on the opposite side, by which the cure is generally completed.

Permanent Ink for marking Linen.

Take of Lunar caustic, (now called argentum nitratum) one dram; weak solution, or Tincture of Galls, 2 drams. The cloth must be first wetted with the following liquid viz. Salt of Tartar one ounce & an half of Water 2 ounces & must be perfectly dry before any attempt is made to write on it.

To preserve the Nails

One ounce of oil of bitter Almonds
one drachm of Bil of Tartar per
deliquium; one ounce of prepared
Crab-Eyes. Mix up with Essence
of Lemon to scent it.

To take away superfluous Hair
Quicklime 2 oz.; Yellow orpiment
1 oz.; litharge 1 oz.; Sift them thro
Silk & dilute them with soap
water till they become a paste;
Anoint the part, & let it dry for
five minutes then scrape off
the Hair with the Nail, wash
immediately with warm
water

To discharge Grease from
Leather.
The white of an Egg applied to
the spot & dried in the Sun;
Or to 2 table spoonsful of Spirit

of turpentine add ½ an oz of
Smeaty potatoes, with some
of the best Durham Mustard.
apply this mixture to the
spot & rub it off when dry.
a little Vinegar added, revives,
& is perhaps more efficacious

To encourage the growth
of Hair —
Hartshorn best rasped ×
mixed with oil, being
rubbed on the heads of per-
sons who have lost their
Hair, will cause it to grow
again as at first

To prevent Blossom & fruit
Trees from being damaged by
early Spring Frost.

If a Rope (a hempen one) be
intermixed among the branches
of a fruit tree in blossom
& the end of it brought down so
as to terminate in a bucket
of water — should a slight frost
take place in the night time
in that case the tree will not
be affected by the frost, but a
film of ice of considerable
thickness will be formed on
the surface of the bucket in
which the Rope end is
immersed. altho' it has often
happened that another
bucket of Water, placed beside
it for experiment sake
has had no ice upon it at
all

To make British Champagne

Take Gooseberries before they grow ripe, crush them with a Mallet in a Wooden bowl, & to every Gallon of fruit put a Gallon of Water; let it stand 2 days stirring it well, squeeze the mixture with your hands thro' a hop-sieve; then measure your liquor & to every Gallon put 3 lb. 2 oz. of loaf sugar; mix it well in the tub, & let it stand one day: put a bottle of the best Brandy in the Cask; leave the Cask open four or six weeks, taking off the skimmings as it rises; then make it up, & let it stand one Year in the Barrel before Bottled. N.B. one Pint of Brandy is enough for 9 Gallons of Liquor

To take of instantly a copy from a print or picture —

Make a Water of Soap & Alum with which wet a cloth or paper; lay it either on a Print or picture, & pass it once under the rolling press; then going round on the other side to take it up you will have a very fine Copy of whatever you shall have laid it upon

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Dish covers to clean

When the polish is gone off, let the Articles be first rubbed over the outsides with a little sweet oil, on a piece of soft linen cloth, then clean it off with dry pure Whiting, quite free from sand, on linen cloths, which will make them look as well as new. The insides shd be rubbed with

say moistened in wet blotting
but without a drop of oil
Always wipe these articles
dry, when brought from
Table & keep them free from
steam or damp, which
greatly facilitates the trouble
of cleaning them.

To sweeten fish or meat when
tainted.
When meat or fish &c from
heat, or long keeping are
likely to pass into a state of
corruption, a simple & pure
mode of keeping them sound
& healthful, is by putting
them a few pieces of char-
coal each the size of an
Egg, into the pot wherein
the fish or flesh is boild.
Amongst other experiments,
one of this kind was tried

upon a Turbot, which appeared to Jon & one to be eatable: two or three pieces of Charcoal each the size of an Egg were put under the stone in the fish kettle, after boiling the proper time the Turbot came to table perfectly sweet & firm

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Methods of Growing flowers & fruits during the Winter

The trees or shrubs must be taken up in Spring, at the time when they are about to bud, with some of their own soil carefully preserved among the Roots, must be placed in a Cellar till Michealmas; when on with the addition of fresh Earth, they are to be put into proper tubs & placed in a Stove or hot house where they must every Morning be moistened, with a solution

of sp. gr. of Sol. Ammonia in a pint of Rain Water. Thus in the Month of February, fruits or flowers will appear; & flowers in general if they are sown in pots at or before Michaelmas & watered in a similar manner will blow before Christmas.

New Method of cleaning Silks Woolens & Cottons.

Grate raw potatoes to a fine pulp in clean water, & pass the liquid matter thro' a coarse sieve into another vessel of water; let the mixture stand till all the fine white particles of the potatoes are precipitated, then pour the mucilaginous liquor from the fecula, & preserve the liquor for use. The articles to

be cleaned should then be laid on a linen cloth on a Table & with a clean sponge the Potato liquor should be applied to it, till the dirt is perfectly separated; then wash it in clean water several times. 2 middle sized Potatoes will be sufficient for a pint of Water

The fecula will answer the purpose of tapioca & make an useful nourishing soup, or serve for Starche or Hair Powder. The coarse pulp, which does not pass thro' the sieve, is of great use in cleaning Worsted curtains, tapestry Carpets or other coarse goods. The Mucilaginous liquor will clean all sorts of Silk, Cotton or Woollen goods without spoiling or hurting the Colour; it may also be used in cleaning Oil paintings &

or furniture that is soiled.
Dirty painted Wainscots may
be cleaned by wetting a
sponge in the liquor; then
dipping it in a little fine
clean sand & afterwards
rubbing the Wainscot
with it

To prevent disagreeable smells
from Privies, Night Chairs &c.
Mill: of lime / water in which
lime has been slacked, & which
has been been whitened by the
fine particles of that substance
must be mixed with a ley of
ashes or soapy water that has
been used in washing,
then thrown into the Sink
or Privy will destroy the
offensive smell. By these
means, for the value of a
few pence any collection of

filth whatever may be neu-
-tralized.

Genuine preparation of the
famous Chemical Liquid
for Boot tops &c.

The following receipt may
be relied on for cleaning
& restoring the colour of Boot
Tops &c. as well as for readily
taking out grease, ink spots
the stains of fruit & Redlime
&c. from all Leather or parch-
-ment. Mix in a Phial, 1 Drach.
of oxymuriate of potash, with
2 oz. of distilled Water; & when
the salt is dissolved add 2 oz.
of Muriatic acid. Then shake
well together in another Phial,
3 oz. of rectified Spirits of Wine
with ½ oz. of essential oil of
Lemon; unite the contents of
the 2 Phials, & keep the Chemical

Liquid thus prepared, closely
Corked for use. It should be
applied with a clean Sponge,
& dried in a gentle heat,
after which the Boot top may
may be polished with a
proper brush so as to appear
like new leather

Another —

Boil a quart of Milk let
it stand till cold, then take
one ounce of oil of Vitriol,
one ounce of Spirits of Salts,
shake them well together,
& add one ounce of Red
Lavender. You may put
½ a pint of Vinegar with
the White of an Egg beat to
a froth —

A cheap Soup—

To 9 pints of water 1 ℔ of lean beef, cut into thin pieces, 1 pint of split peas, 12 ounces of mealy potatoes, 3 ounces of ground rice, after they have boiled two hours, add 3 large leeks, 2 heads of celery, and a sufficient quantity of salt—to be reduced to 7 pints.

Directions for Cooking in the Bodleys.

Every piece of meat must be placed on a stand, in the dripping pan; and the part you intend to set upwards at Table, must be placed downwards when first put into the Oven. When half done, (or a little longer if the Bony part is upward,) turn it. When quite roasted, dust a little flour over it before you send it to Table. Always remember to put some water in your dripping-pan when first set in the Oven; for a fowl or a Goosling, half a pint; a Goose, pint & half; a piece of Meat 6 pounds, a pint; 9 lbs. a pint & a half. 12 lbs. two pints 15 pounds, two pints & half; 18 lbs. three pints &c &c.

Mutton pies should be placed on a stand, but meat pies must be set on the Bottom of the Oven. If the crust or pastes brown too fast, lay on some paper.

When you bake bread, the oven door should not be quite shut for the space of ten minutes, it will give the bread liberty to rise much better.

The oven must always be made completely Hot before any thing is put into it, particularly for bread, & then let the heat decrease gradually, by adding cinders. But if the oven continues too hot while roasting, open the oven door part way.

The Mason must always leave
an opening between the Lap &
the breast of the Chimney of
3 inches wide, & the whole length,
to admit the Efflurvia & smoke to pass up. This Lap must
be placed from 7 to 9 inches
above the mantle piece, or
arch of the Chimney; and the
flue must be made of sufficient
length to extend 2 inches beyond
the Lap.

For deafness

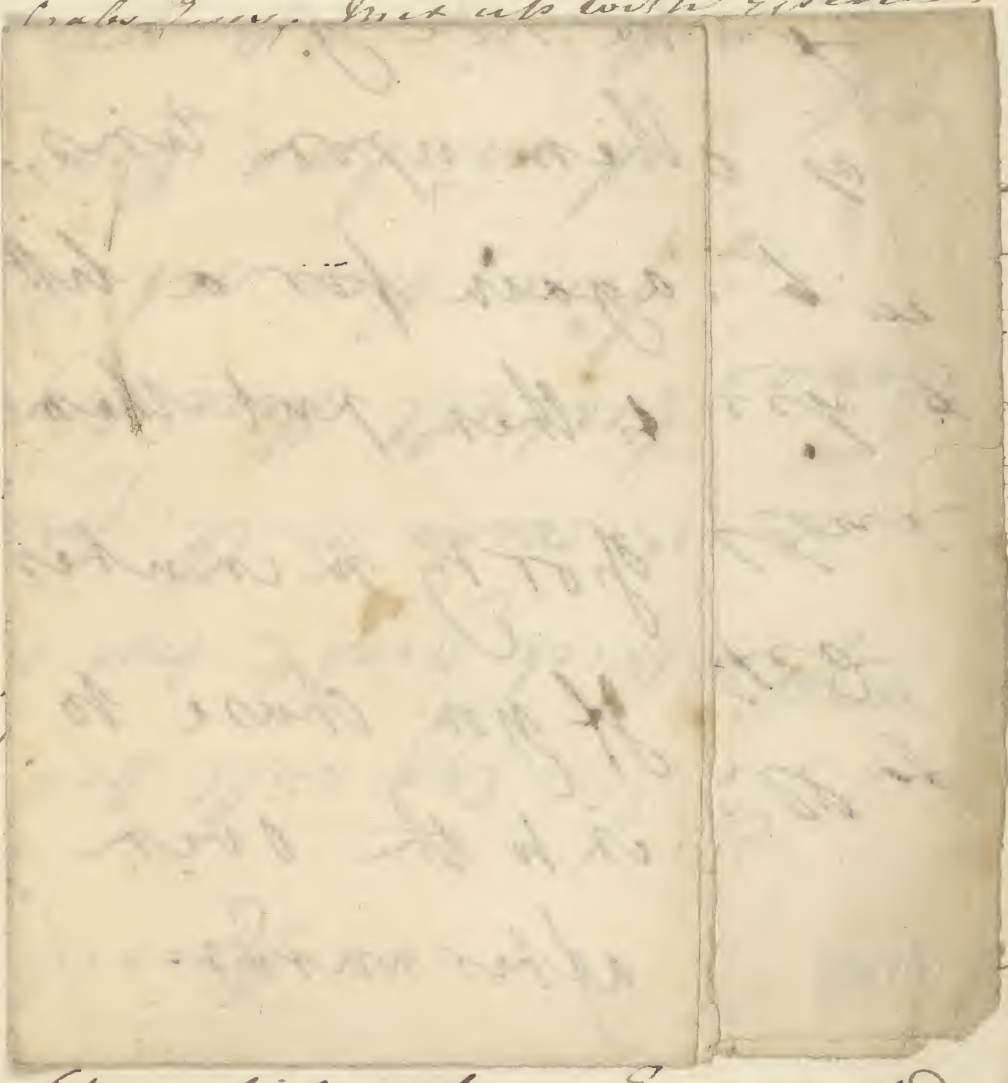
Oil of Almonds one ounce & a piece of Camphor the size of a nutmeg dissolved in it — 3 or 4 drops in the Ear every night made warm by putting the Phial to stand in warm water before it is used —

99581

99181

To preserve the Nails

One ounce of Oil of bitter Almonds.
one drachm of Oil of Tartar per
deliquium; one ounce of prepared
Crabs Eyes. Mix all with Essence.



The whites of an Egg applied to
the spot & dried in the Sun;
Or to 2 table spoonsful of spirit

French Rolles.

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One Egg well beat in four spoons full of thick yeast, two ounces of butter melted in warm milk; four pounds of fine flour beat all these together till it is thick & fine, then set it to rise for three q.rs of an hour, then make up the rolles to the size you would have them & put them upon tins, set them by the fire again for a little while to rise, & then put them into a quick oven. Forty minutes will bake them.

If you chuse to rasp them, put them into the oven for five minutes afterwards.

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